



H.R. 2964 – CAPTIVE PRIMATE SAFETY ACT

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 2964 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) on July 10, 2007. The House Committee on Natural Resources reported the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent on June 11, 2008.

H.R. 2964 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 17, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 2964 amends the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 by prohibiting the import, export, transport, sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase of any live nonhuman primate (such as monkeys, great apes, lemurs, etc.) through interstate or foreign commerce.

The legislation allows the transport of these non-human primates for veterinary purposes as long as the person transporting the animal carries proof of the appointment issued by the veterinarian and the animal is transported and treated within all applicable State and local laws. H.R. 2964 also allows individuals who own such primates to give them to an out-of-state caregiver upon the death of the owner. The legislation sets civil and criminal penalties for violations of the provisions of the Act.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior \$5 million for 2009, to hire additional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Officers to enforce this Act.

BACKGROUND

The Lacey Act (16 U.S.C. 701) was enacted in 1900 in an effort to protect species of wildlife by banning the interstate transport of wildlife killed in violation of a federal, state, or tribal law. The original Lacey Act has been amended several times since its enactment.

The Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (P.L. 97-79) made it unlawful for any person to attempt, assist, or actively participate in the import, export, transport, purchase or sale of fish, wildlife or plants taken or possessed in violation of federal, state, or tribal law. In 2003, Congress passed the Captive Wildlife Safety Act (P.L. 108-191), which was introduced by Congressman Howard McKeon (R-CA), on November 19, 2003, by a vote of 419-0. The bill amended the Lacey Act Amendments to include big game cats, such as lions and tigers. The President signed the Captive Wildlife Safety Act into law on December 19, 2003.

COST

The Congressional Budget "estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$17 million over the 2009-2013 period."

[Full CBO cost estimate for H.R. 2964.](#)

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